

# Chapter 11

## Parks and Recreation

### INTRODUCTION

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Since its founding, Fremont has valued parks and recreation as vital civic necessities, not just optional amenities benefiting its citizens. Fremont's parks system and recreation programs have been sources of local pride that distinguish Fremont from many other similarly sized cities.

The Fremont General Plan adopted in 1991 contained Chapter 6, entitled Parks and Open Space. Goal OS3 of that chapter established City policy to provide "parks and recreation to meet the community's needs." That goal was further defined by a series of objectives, specific policies and implementation measures enumerated in Chapter 6. One of those implementation measures (Implementation 2 under Policy OS 3.1.1) called for the City to "prepare a Recreation Plan based on the recreation needs assessment and amend the Parks and Open Space Chapter of this General Plan accordingly."

The City authorized preparation of a parks and recreation master plan in 1993, with work proceeding during 1994 and 1995. The amended Chapter 6, which deals solely with open space, and Chapter 11 for parks and recreation are the major General Plan changes resulting from adoption of a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan in February 1995. Parks and Recreation was only one of seven sections in the original Chapter 6.

#### **Relationship to Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

This General Plan chapter includes the City's broad goals, objectives and policies regarding parks and recreation. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is consistent with the General Plan while providing more detailed information about and direction for acquisition of park land and provision of park facilities.

#### **Organization of Chapter**

This chapter is comprised of four sections regarding parks and recreation. In the first section, existing and planned parks and

recreation facilities are described, along with the opportunities and constraints affecting Fremont's parks and recreation resources. The second section describes the City's projections (expectations for the future) regarding parks and recreation, expressed as the acreage standards for acquisition of park land and other standards and guidelines for categories of parks. The third section describes how the information contained in this chapter will be kept up to date in the future. The fourth section, as in other chapters of the General Plan, contains objectives, policies and implementations.

## Setting

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### Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Fremont has an extensive park system that is fairly well distributed throughout the City. Significantly, Fremont is close to being a "built out" city. Land currently available for residential use is projected to be developed by the year 2010. In addition there is limited undeveloped land suitable for new parks in Fremont. Opportunities for the development of new parks will be pursued where land is available. While evenly distributed parks would be desirable, the citizen survey conducted during preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan established that City residents are willing to travel within the city, to use a wider variety of park and recreation facilities and programs than could be provided within any one area of the city. Unlike Chapter 6, which deals with open space resources on the geographic basis of planning subareas, this chapter considers parks and recreation facilities and programs in a citywide context.

### City Facilities

As of February 1995, the City had 1,021 acres of land within its parks system. In addition to this land, Fremont owns 900 of the 2,600 acres in Mission Peak Regional Preserve. Facilities within the park system include Lake Elizabeth, community centers, softball/soccer/tennis sports complexes, baseball fields, Olive Hyde Art Center, children's play areas, a swim lagoon, historic structure and gardens, and a variety of other spaces and facilities for active and passive uses.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan simplified the categories of parks used to identify park land in the City's inventory. Previously there were eight categories of parks in the City's system: regional, city, community, neighborhood, school, trail, historic and mini/pocket parks. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes four categories of parks: citywide, neighborhood, mini and historic. These categories focus on the functions of parks, provide a less complex hierarchy of parks, and increase flexibility in meeting future park and recreation needs.

into the “citywide” category, and “mini/pocket” and “trail” parks are now both labelled “mini” parks. “School parks” are no longer a category as discussed below under **School Facilities**. “Regional parks” have been eliminated as a park category for several reasons. Regional parks are open space in character and serve primarily a regional population. Regional parks are managed by other agencies that provide public services. Ardenwood Regional Preserve is included in the park land inventory because the Preserve is owned by the City, functions as a park, and is operated under a joint agreement between the City and EBRPD. Refer to Chapter 6 (Open Space) for additional discussion of Fremont’s regional parks.

- *Citywide parks* provide facilities which serve the needs of the entire community, often also providing improvements typical of neighborhood parks for local residents. Citywide parks are not necessarily uniform in the facilities they provide. The greater size and accessibility of these parks allow for more active play than found in neighborhood parks. Active and passive recreation functions will be included in base facilities at citywide parks. Special cultural facilities such as theaters, museums and festival grounds can be considered for inclusion at selected citywide parks. As of February 1995, there were eleven citywide parks in Fremont.
- *Neighborhood parks* provide for the daily recreation needs of residents in the areas surrounding these parks. They contain limited active recreation opportunities, such as hard surface playing courts and multipurpose fields. Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling and informal play can also be accommodated at neighborhood parks. Unlike citywide parks, on-site parking is not provided. As of February 1995, there were nineteen neighborhood parks in Fremont.
- *Mini parks* include nine parks previously categorized as trail parks and mini/pocket parks, as well as three small parks (California Terrace, Noll and Plaza) previously designated as neighborhood parks. Because of their small size and/or configuration, these parks do not provide the same base level of facilities as neighborhood parks, and contain neighborhood recreation functions in a more limited manner than neighborhood parks. Mini parks provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities. Future mini parks will require a specific funding mechanism for operation and maintenance, due to their relative high costs.
- *Historic parks* provide a means of preserving and interpreting historic structures and sites. The secondary purpose of these parks, when appropriate, is to serve and enhance citywide recreation needs. Historic parks are established around important historic buildings or other historic resources such as a plaza, monument or nursery. Fremont’s eight existing historic parks attest to the priority the City places on preserving its heritage.

## School Facilities

School facilities provide significant park and recreation opportunities in Fremont. The Fremont/Newark Community College District's Ohlone College, the California Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and the many campuses of the Fremont Unified School District contribute substantially to the City's park, recreation and open space character, providing both outdoor and indoor facilities for use by the general public and nonprofit groups.

There are several kinds of property agreements between the City and the Fremont Unified School District. The City has leased school property to provide parks and recreation facilities to Fremont residents. In other cases, the City has leased property to the School District for school facilities. Joint use agreements for Little League use of School District property exist between the School District, the City and/or the Little Leagues. Table 11-1 shows the status of these agreements as of February 1995.

**Table 11-1**  
**Land Use Agreements Between City of Fremont**  
**and Fremont Unified School District**

<b>Lease Agreements:</b>		<b>Expiration</b>
<b>School District to City</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Date</b>
Grimmer School Park	5.49	28 April 1999
Mission San Jose School Park	3.5	6 Nov. 2010
Patterson School Park	4.59	28 April 1999
Vallejo Mill School Park	5.97	28 April 1999
<b>Lease Agreements:</b>		
<b>City to School District</b>		
Deep Creek Neighborhood Park	5.10	30 June 2033
Frank Fisher Neighborhood Park	5.48	3 March 2032
<b>Joint Use Agreements:</b>		
<b>School District with City and Little League</b>		
Gomes Elementary School	--	2000
Warm Springs Elementary School	--	2005

The acreage of school parks has not been included in the City of Fremont's inventory of park land since there is no permanent commitment to maintain the acreage for public park purposes. The City will consider extension of the lease agreements prior to the expiration dates on a case-by-case basis. The City will also conduct case-by-case review of any future school parks.

The City recognizes that the mission of the School District is not to provide community recreation facilities. Also, public access to recreation facilities on school sites must of necessity be limited. Even with access limitations, recreation facilities on school sites complement the City's provision of recreation services. There may be potential for the City to acquire future surplus school property if the land and/or improvements meet the community's needs and the City's criteria for park land.

### **East Bay Regional Park District**

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has several large holdings within Fremont. These include the Coyote Hills Regional Park and acreage leased and managed by EBRPD from the City of Fremont: Ardenwood Regional Preserve and a portion of Mission Peak Regional Preserve. In addition, the District has acquired and plans to develop land on Vargas Plateau. The City, EBRPD and the Alameda County Water District plan to develop the Alameda Creek Quarries as a regional recreation resource. The 12-mile long Alameda Creek Regional Trail, with recreational trails on both sides of the creek, is managed by EBRPD.

### **San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers significant natural habitat for wildlife. Approximately 10,000 acres of the Refuge's wetlands are located in Fremont. The highest priority of the Refuge is wildlife protection and enhancement, with public use a secondary benefit. The Refuge offers extensive recreational opportunities, including classes, hiking and observation of wildlife.

### **San Francisco Water District**

As of February 1995, Fremont had five land use permits with the San Francisco Water District for recreational use of almost twelve acres of the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct corridor. The most recent agreement involved the construction of Plomosa Park, providing over four acres of neighborhood recreation opportunities. The land use permits do not have specific expiration dates. There are some restrictions on the type of improvements permitted on the Water District's land (for example, trees are not allowed). However, the restrictions do not preempt the utilization of the Water District's land for parks and recreational activities.

### **Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFCWCD) owns Lake Elizabeth and the adjacent silt pond, managing these areas for flood control purposes. The City of Fremont has several land use permits with ACFCWCD to allow recreational use on District land. These lease agreements include the use of Lake Elizabeth and the flood control channel that bisects Gomes Neighborhood Park. ACFCWCD also manages Alameda Creek in Fremont.

## Opportunities and Constraints

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### **Physical and Environmental Setting**

As mentioned, physical limitations on available developable lands pose significant constraints to acquisition of park land in Fremont. Large expanses of open land, the hillsides and bay lands are not suited for active park use due to their environmental sensitivity.

### **Future Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Limited opportunities exist in the current parks and recreation system for the addition of recreation facilities. For the most part, City-owned park land is already developed for either active or passive uses. Developed area of parks include land that is turfed, contains athletic facilities, or is enhanced for its open and natural character.

### **Economic and Fiscal Setting**

As of February 1995, several City park funds are available for acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation of parks. Park benefit fees collected from January 1989 through November 1991 under authority of the Quimby Act can be used for acquisition, development or rehabilitation. Quimby Act park dedication fees collected after November 1991 can be used for acquisition or rehabilitation. Park benefit fees collected pursuant to AB 1600 from January 1989 through November 1991 can be used for acquisition and development. Park facility impact fees pursuant to AB 1600 can be used for park development.

Development impact fees collected from future residential development can be used to pay for new park land and recreation facility needs created by new residents. These funds cannot be used to rectify deficiencies in park land or facilities existing at the time of fee adoption. However, a portion of development impact fees could be used for improvements to existing citywide parks which expand the recreation capacity of those parks and recreation facilities for the new residents.

Special facilities, such as community centers, an indoor swimming and gymnasium facility, a cultural arts facility, and golf courses have been discussed for inclusion in Fremont's park system. The City will seek broad-based mechanisms to finance the development of such facilities, including land acquisition when required. State and federal grant monies, gifts, bequests and other external sources of funding will, to the maximum extent possible, be used to fund such facilities.

The City will also explore public-private cooperative mechanisms, such as public ownership coupled with private operation. Other mechanisms to fund special facilities include special benefit assessments (e.g. landscape and lighting districts), general obligation bonds, general taxes (such as utility taxes), and special taxes earmarked by the City Council for parks and recreation purposes. While requirements for voter approval vary

among such mechanisms, very strong resident support will be required for such new funding sources.

## **PROJECTIONS**

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### **Standards, Goals and Guidelines**

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#### **Standard and Goal for Acquisition and Development of Park Land**

Fremont adopted standards for regional, city, community and neighborhood parks in 1977. The 1995 Parks and Recreation Master Plan reviewed the 1991 General Plan's previously adopted acreage standards for what were then called city, community and neighborhood parks. The cumulative 8.3 acre per 1,000 residents identified by those earlier standards were far greater than the 5.79 acres per 1,000 residents existing in 1990. Several factors lead to the approach to park standards in this chapter: the desire for realistic, fundable standards; the limited availability of land for new parks; and a populace with a willingness to travel to citywide parks and recreation facilities.

The City's standard for acquisition and development of park land is 5.0 acres of park land per 1,000 new residents. This standard is the basis on which the City collects development impact fees for the park system. The City's current goal is to maintain the 5.79 acres of park land per 1,000 residents that existed in 1990. This goal reflects the City's desire to provide and maintain a parks and recreation system that is commensurate with the level of services provided by the current system and with the level of satisfaction expressed by the Fremont community.

#### **Park Standards and Guidelines for Development of Parks**

This Chapter establishes standards and guidelines for the City's four categories of parks. The intent of establishing standards is to guarantee the provision of certain baseline facilities within parks by committing expenditure of development impact fees for baseline improvements. This assures a level of uniformity of facilities among parks serving similar functions. The establishment of standards for facilities creates an obligation to provide funding to achieve the standard. This obligation is incurred because the City uses standards as the basis for establishing impact fees for park development.

Guidelines provide direction in making decisions about resources, without a commitment to provide funding for the resources. Guidelines assure the system will be completed with like-type facilities. The standards and guidelines represent the level of development that needs to occur to ensure that the parks and recreation system meets the needs of Fremont's population. Refer to Tables 11-2 through 11-5 for a detailed listing of the standards and guidelines for the four categories of parks.

Table 11-2  
Citywide Parks  
Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	Citywide parks provide for a diverse range of recreational and cultural activities. These parks provide for the active and passive recreation needs for the largest portion of the City's population. Citywide parks are appropriate for the siting of special facilities. Citywide parks can also serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residents.
Base Facilities: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Restroom(s)</li> <li>· Drinking fountain(s)</li> <li>· Picnic tables and barbecues</li> <li>· Grass area with trees</li> <li>· Play area with play equipment</li> <li>· Benches</li> <li>· Trash cans</li> <li>· Active recreation, such as facilities for organized, league practice, and pickup games (ball fields, tennis, etc.) and citywide recreation buildings and sports complexes. A portion of the active recreation facilities should be lighted for night use.</li> <li>· Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play</li> <li>· Pathway and parking lot lighting</li> <li>· On-site parking</li> </ul>
Recreation Facilities: Guidelines	<p>Provide cultural opportunities and active and passive recreation opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cultural facilities, such as, theaters, museums, and festival grounds</li> <li>· Natural areas</li> </ul> <p>Provide facilities as needed to support the park functions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Office and storage</li> <li>· Bicycle parking</li> <li>· Curb-side parking</li> </ul>
Optional Facilities: Guidelines	As appropriate, but must be recreation oriented and complementary to the park functions.
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None



Table 11-3  
Neighborhood Parks  
Standards and Guidelines

Purpose	Neighborhood parks provide for the daily recreation needs of residents in the area of the park. The primary recreation use is informal leisure and free play. Active recreation is limited to informal "pick up" games and practice activities.
Base Facilities: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Grass area with trees</li> <li>· Play area with play equipment</li> <li>· Bench(s)</li> <li>· Trash can(s)</li> </ul> <p>Provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Limited active recreation, such as hard surface playing courts (basketball, tennis, etc.) and multipurpose sports fields for informal "pick up" games and practice activities</li> <li>· Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play</li> </ul>
Recreation Facilities: Guidelines	<p>Provide passive recreation opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Natural areas</li> </ul> <p>Provide limited facilities as needed to support the park functions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Drinking fountains</li> <li>· Barbecues and picnic tables</li> <li>· Pathways</li> </ul>
Optional Facilities: Guidelines	As appropriate, but must be recreation oriented and complementary to the park functions
Service Area Standard	None
Size Standard	None

**Table 11-4**  
**Mini Parks**  
**Standards and Guidelines**

<b>Purpose</b>	Mini parks provide for limited recreation needs of residents in the area of the park. The primary recreation use is informal leisure and free play. Site constraints (size and configuration) may limit recreation use.
<b>Base Facilities: Standards</b>	Future mini parks must be accompanied by a funding mechanism acceptable to the City for purposes of operations and maintenance.
<b>Recreation Facilities: Guidelines</b>	<p>Provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited active recreation, such as hard surface playing courts (basketball, tennis, etc.) and multipurpose sports fields for practice and “pick up” games</li> <li>Passive recreation, such as picnicking, strolling, and informal play</li> </ul> <p>Provide limited facilities as needed to support the park functions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drinking fountains</li> <li>Barbecues and picnic tables</li> <li>Pathways</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Facilities: Guidelines</b>	As appropriate, but must be recreation oriented and complementary to the park functions
<b>Service Area Standard</b>	None
<b>Size Standard</b>	None

**Table 11-5**  
**Historic Parks**  
**Standards and Guidelines**

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The primary purpose of historic parks is the preservation of historic structures or sites. The secondary aim is to provide a place to serve and enhance citywide activity needs.</p> <p>Historic parks are established around an important historic building or other historic resources (such as a plaza, monument, or nursery).</p> <p>An historic park can also serve as a memorial to events of historic, cultural and/or social significance to the City of Fremont. The location of the historic park has a reasonable relationship to the event being commemorated.</p>
<b>Recreation Facilities: Guidelines</b>	Varies
<b>Optional Facilities: Guidelines</b>	Varies
<b>Service Area Standard</b>	None
<b>Size Standard</b>	None

## Criteria for Selection of Park Sites

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This chapter places an emphasis on criteria for selection for future park sites. These criteria allow for case-by-case assessment of parcels under consideration for acquisition or dedication as City parks. Unlike the previous General Plan Chapter 6, this chapter does not include standards for minimum park sizes or service areas. The previous service radius standards have also been eliminated. While useful as a planning tool in developing cities, service radius standards are not applicable to cities such as Fremont, which are nearly fully developed and have limited land available for park acquisition. Also, the citizen survey revealed that Fremont's residents were willing to travel five miles or more to access recreation activities common to citywide parks.

Careful consideration must be given to the physical, regulatory, and legal characteristics of land before it is purchased or accepted for dedication as city-owned park land. The City needs to achieve maximum value and utility with each purchase or dedication of park land given the priority on citywide parks and the limitations on funding.

The following criteria for selection of park sites include acceptable physical configuration, topography, encumbrance, access, environmental constraints, compatibility with surrounding land uses, maintenance impacts and costs of capital improvements, operations, maintenance and supervision. The Recreation Commission will review and make recommendations about any parcel under consideration for acquisition or acceptance for dedication as a city-owned, operated or maintained park.

- **Physical Configuration**  
Parcels proposed to be developed as citywide, neighborhood, or mini parks must be able to accommodate the proper siting of the appropriate facilities intended for those park types. Adequate space for support facilities, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, and safety zones must also be provided.
- **Topography**  
Parcels proposed to be developed as citywide, neighborhood, or mini parks should have average slope gradients no greater than five percent (5%), to provide flat, usable recreation spaces. Limited areas of greater slope may be acceptable as natural areas and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- **Encumbrance**  
Park sites acceptable for acquisition or dedication would optimally be without encumbrances and restrictions, such as dedicated easements, power lines, and geologic hazard zones. Exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with full disclosure of such encumbrances by the current property owner and the value of the land discounted accordingly. The City of Fremont maintains discretion to approve the proposed discounting of the land.

- **Access**  
Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to proposed park land must be accommodated in a safe manner, and with consideration to minimizing impacts of vehicles on the surrounding street system.
- **Environmental Constraints**  
The presence of hazardous materials, unsafe environmental conditions, and environmental conditions which could limit development, such as wetlands and flood plains, must be evaluated.
- **Compatibility with Surrounding Land Uses**  
The compatibility of the activities and functions of the proposed park with surrounding land uses must be evaluated.
- **Maintenance Impacts**  
Unique physical characteristics of land, such as unusual shape or small size, can create maintenance impacts disproportionate to their value to the park system. Thus, the maintenance impacts of new park land must be considered in relation to the size, shape, and other unique characteristics of the parcel and types and quantities of proposed facilities.
- **Recreation Commission Review**  
The Recreation Commission will review and make recommendations about any parcel under consideration for acquisition or acceptance for dedication as a city-owned, operated, or maintained park. The Recreation Commission will review proposed park land according to the goals, standards, and guidelines of this Chapter, including physical, economic, and recreation considerations. Proposed parks not in City ownership (such as parks to be operated under a lease or joint use agreement) will be evaluated for their long-term ability to provide parks and recreation services.
- **Capital Improvements, Operations**  
Costs associated with the capital improvements, operations, maintenance, and supervision requirements for proposed parks must be considered prior to acquisition and development of park land and recreation facilities. For example, the City must consider the costs of retaining, stabilizing, and enhancing historic parks prior to accepting the responsibility for these parks.

## **UPDATING OF MASTER PLAN AND GENERAL PLAN**

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The Parks and Recreation Chapter of the General Plan can be updated along with a comprehensive General Plan update, subsequent to a General Plan update or coincidental with a comprehensive update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

## Fundamental Goals

The overall goal for the City regarding parks and recreation is to meet the mandate of General Plan Fundamental Goal F-12:

**F-12: THE AVAILABILITY OF PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES  
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Several other General Plan Fundamental Goals also relate to parks and recreation;

**F-3: A CITYSCAPE WITH AN OPEN FEELING**

**F-8: A DIVERSITY OF RESIDENTIAL, RECREATIONAL,  
CULTURAL, EMPLOYMENT AND SHOPPING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**F-10: PUBLIC SERVICES RESPONSIBLY MANAGED AND  
EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY**

**F-13: VITAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE HISTORY AND  
HERITAGE OF THE COMMUNITY AND EVERYDAY LIFE.**

These General Plan Fundamental Goals and the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are the basis for the goals, objectives, policies and implementation measures in this General Plan chapter. Particular attention has been paid to General Plan Fundamental Goal F-10, given the limited financing available for public facilities and services.

## Park and Recreation Goals

In this Chapter, the following Park and Recreation Goals build on the Fundamental Goals of the General Plan:

**GOAL PR 1: Parks and recreation facilities to meet the community's  
needs**

**GOAL PR 2: Park lands and recreation facilities to reflect Fremont's  
image and identity**

**GOAL PR 3: Active implementation of parks and recreation  
objectives to maintain Fremont's leadership role in the  
region.**

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**PARKS AND RECREATION GOAL (PR) GOAL 1:**  
**Parks and recreation facilities to meet the community's needs**

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**OBJECTIVE PR 1.1: A range of parks and recreation facilities serving the needs of a large and diverse population and accessible to all residents.**

**Policy PR 1.1.1**

Parks and recreation facilities shall be consistent with the standards and guidelines of the Parks and Recreation Chapter of the General Plan (contained in Tables 11-2 through 11-5).

**Implementation 1:** The Recreation Commission shall review and recommend all proposed developments, acquisitions and other arrangements for park land and recreation facilities for consistency with this chapter.

**Policy PR 1.1.2**

The City's standard for acquisition and development of park land shall be five (5) acres per one thousand (1,000) new residents.

**Implementation 1:** Require all park dedications, in lieu payments and development exactions to be based on this standard.

**Policy PR 1.1.3**

The City should seek ways to achieve the goal of maintaining 5.79 acres of park land per one thousand (1,000) residents.

**Implementation 1:** Pursue a wide range of funding techniques for acquisition of park land and development of recreation facilities.

**Implementation 2:** Pursue long term leases, joint use agreements and other cooperative agreements with public agencies or the provision of park land and recreation facilities managed by the City of Fremont for public use.

**PARKS AND RECREATION GOAL 2:**  
**Park lands and recreation facilities to reflect Fremont's image and identity**

**OBJECTIVE PR 2.1: Parks and recreation facilities reflecting the unique attributes of Fremont.**

**Policy PR 2.1.1**

Maintain and enhance the City's parks and recreation facilities and resources that significantly contribute to Fremont's image and identity.

**Implementation 1:** School parks should be evaluated to consider whether they are needed as parks before the agreements between the City and the Fremont Unified School District expire.

**Implementation 2:** Cooperate with the Fremont Unified School District to maintain and increase public access to facilities when not needed for school activities.

**Implementation 3:** Evaluate publicly owned lands which become available for potential long-term cooperative agreements between the City and other public agencies for the provision of park land and recreation facilities for public use.

**Implementation 4:** The Leisure Services Department should analyze the City's system of community centers and the role these centers serve in the City's park and recreation system.

**Policy PR 2.1.2**

Acquire and develop new park lands and recreation facilities consistent with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Implementation 1:** Prepare and implement a land acquisition program for the identification, assessment and purchase of land for park sites.

**Implementation 2:** Establish priorities and recommend funding for specific park land and recreation facilities.

**Policy PR 2.1.3** Whenever feasible, public parks and recreation facilities should be on City-owned land.

**Implementation 1:** Evaluate publicly owned lands which become available for potential acquisition as future park sites.

**Policy PR 2.1.4** Conserve and enhance Fremont's unique historic parks.

**Implementation 1:** Conduct a study to examine the roles and responsibilities for management of City-owned historic resources and the role those resources play in the parks system.

**Policy PR 2.1.5** Maintain the City's parks according to the City's ability to fund on-going maintenance activities.

**Implementation 1:** Develop a system to establish levels of service for operations and maintenance and a cost-estimating model to facilitate efficient maintenance of the City's parks and recreation facilities.

**OBJECTIVE PR 2.2: Minimum feasible environmental impact of new park and recreation facilities on their surroundings.**

**Policy PR 2.2.1** New sites should conform to the Criteria for Site Selection in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Implementation 1:** The Leisure Services Department should develop procedures for Recreation Commission and interdepartmental review of all proposed parks for consistency with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**OBJECTIVE PR 2.3: Central Park managed for its long term environmental health and vitality.**

**Policy PR 2.3.1** Central Park development shall be in accordance with a long range master plan that considers the long term role and function of the park within the City, competing needs and uses for the park, the importance of preserving its natural areas, and the need for areas of active and passive use. Privately owned and operated buildings shall not be permitted in Central Park west of the Southern Pacific railroad tracks.



**Implementation 1:** Develop a long range Central Park management plan. The Master Plan shall establish appropriate transitions between Central Park and the Civic Center area adjacent to the park. All buildings should be set back from the boundary between the park and the Civic Center area, with landscaping and other buffering elements between the buildings and the park boundary.

**Implementation 2:** A BART extension through Central Park shall be trenched, covered and sound insulated under Central Park, at a minimum from Stevenson to Paseo Padre.

**PARKS AND RECREATION GOAL 3:**  
**Active implementation of parks and recreation objectives to maintain Fremont's leadership role in the region**

**OBJECTIVE PR 3.1: Keep City policies for parks and recreation facilities up to date and reflective of changing community trends and needs.**

**Policy PR 3.1.1** Provide comprehensive updating of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and this Chapter of the General Plan.

**Implementation 1:** Regularly review the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and conduct a comprehensive update concurrent with updates of the General Plan.